

## House Republican Press Release

December 1, 2005  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Rep. Alberts Expresses Concern About Spending \$17 Million in Taxpayer Funds for Political Campaigns**



#### *Say Money Should Go to Build Up Underfunded Teacher's Pension System Or Other State Services*

State Rep. Mike Alberts, R-50th Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Pomfret, Woodstock, voted to eliminate special interest money from Connecticut politics, but opposed using at least \$17 million a year from the state General Fund to pay for more political campaign ads.

Rep. Alberts expressed grave concerns about provisions in the campaign finance legislation creating “tremendous loopholes for special interest money to continue flowing into political campaigns.”

Rep. Alberts voted for numerous amendments to close the loopholes and eliminate taxpayer financing of political campaigns. However, all amendments were defeated along party lines. The campaign finance legislation passed the House on an 82-65 vote.

Rep. Alberts said, “Many people in my district have told me they oppose using state funds to pay for more political ads and more campaign mail. In a survey, I asked the question, ‘Do you support using tax dollars to support political campaigns?’ Of the nearly 1,000 respondents, 81 percent said no, 16 percent said yes and 3 per cent were undecided. That’s a five to one margin.”

“Instead, we should use the money to build up the chronically underfunded state teacher pension system or increase aid to public schools,” said Alberts.

Rep. Alberts said, “ If this comes out of the General Fund, that means other programs will be cut or taxes will be raised to come up with at least \$17 million a year for grants to politicians. If this is coming from surplus funds, they it should be returned to the taxpayers or used to improve services, not provide grants to politicians.”

Rep. Alberts said a glaring problem is that legislative leaders still will be permitted to form multiple political action committees to funnel special interest money to candidates for the state House and Senate. He noted that the legislation allows leadership of the House and Senate each to make use of three political action committees to solicit contributions and disburse money to favored candidates.

Rep. Alberts serves the 50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District of Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Pomfret, Woodstock.